



## Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishery Update

Below are **preliminary** landings estimates in metric tons (mt) and (lbs) dressed weight (dw) for the Atlantic Shark commercial fisheries for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> **trimester** seasons of 2007. **The landings estimates include landing reports received as of October 18, 2007; however, these reports present preliminary landings, as some dealers have not yet reported.** The landings presented below are total landings reported through the Pelagic Dealer Compliance (PDC) (previously known as the Quota Monitoring System), and the Automated Landings Reporting System (ALS) (previously known as the General Canvass).

First Trimester Season 2007					
Species Group	Region	Closure date	Quota	Estimated Landings	% of Quota
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads (annual quota 1,017 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED, January 15	62.3 mt dw (137,347 lb dw)	186.9 mt dw (412,091 lb dw)	300%
	South Atlantic	CLOSED, January 1	—	16.0 mt dw (35,200 lb dw)	—
	North Atlantic	CLOSED, April 30	7.9 mt dw (17,416 lb dw)	0 mt dw (81 lb dw)	> 0.1 %
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead (annual quota 454 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED, February 23	15.1 mt dw (33,289 lb dw)	14.7 mt dw (32,438 lb dw)	97.4%
	South Atlantic	CLOSED, April 30	308.4 mt dw (679,899 lb dw)	28.7 mt dw (63,319 lb dw)	9.3%
	North Atlantic		18.8 mt dw (41,446 dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Blue sharks (annual quota 273 mt dw)	No regional quotas	CLOSED, April 30	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Porbeagle sharks (annual quota 92 mt dw)			30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)	0.1 mt dw (139 lb dw)	0.3%
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle (annual quota 488 mt dw)			162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)	43.7 mt dw (96,414 lb dw)	26.9%

Second and Third Trimester Season 2007					
Species Group	Region	Closure date	Quota	Estimated Landings	% of Quota
*Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads (annual quota 1,017 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	CLOSED, September 22	83.1 mt dw (183,202 lb dw)	505.4 mt dw (1,114,182 lb dw)	608.2%
	South Atlantic	CLOSED, August 15	163.70 mt dw (360,893 lb dw)	185.7 mt dw (409,424 lb dw)	113.4%
	North Atlantic	CLOSED, July 31	69.0 mt dw (152,117 lb dw)	123.6 mt dw (272,565 lb dw)	179.1%



Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead (annual quota 454 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	To be determined, as necessary	72.6 mt dw (160,054 lb dw)	52 mt dw ( 114,698 lb dw)	71.6%
	South Atlantic		291.6 mt dw (642,861 lb dw)	118.9 mt dw (262,086 lb dw)	40.8%
	North Atlantic		36.2 mt dw (79,807 lb dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Blue sharks (annual quota 273 mt dw)	No regional quotas	To be determined, as necessary	91.0 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)	0 mt dw	0%
Porbeagle sharks (annual quota 92 mt dw)			30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)	1.2 mt dw (2,631 lb dw)	3.9%
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle (annual quota 488 mt dw)			162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)	73.1 mt dw (161,187 lb dw)	44.9%

\* Please note that for LCS, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons of 2007 were merged for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> season, the North Atlantic region opened on July 6 and closed on July 31<sup>st</sup>. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> season, the North Atlantic region was closed for LCS.

Per 50 CFR § 635.27(b)(1), state landings are counted against the Federal quota. NMFS will be taking any overharvests from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> trimesters into consideration through future regulations including Amendment 2 to the Consolidated HMS FMP. The 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 trimester season overharvest is accounted for in the 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 trimester season proposed rule (October 1, 2007, 72 FR 55729).

Please note that dealers located in closed regions are not permitted to purchase sharks landed in open regions [50 CFR § 635.28(b)(3)] and may be subject to enforcement actions. However, NMFS continues to see incidences of cross-region purchasing during closed seasons. For example, during the 2007 second trimester, NMFS originally received reports from Gulf of Mexico dealers totaling 45.5 mt dw of large coastal landings. Upon further inspection, NMFS observed that 9.7 mt dw of the reported 45.5 mt dw amount were landed in the South Atlantic region. The 9.7 mt dw of large coastal shark has therefore been reallocated towards the South Atlantic quota.

This notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. For further information on this landings update or the closure, contact Michael Clark or Heather Halter at 301-713-2347. The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.

*for Emily Menachies*  
Alan D. Risenhoover  
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

11/14/2007  
Date

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